

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

January 26, 1956

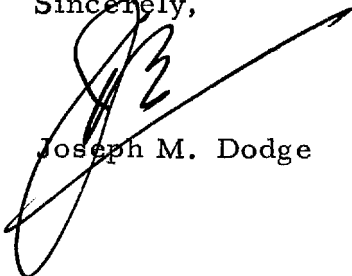
Dear Allen:

Attached are two copies of a translation of The Will of Peter the Great which you may not have seen and should be of interest.

There is an amazing consistency in the historical continuity of the policy of Russia in the 18th Century and the policies the Kremlin has carried forward in the 20th Century.

I am told both Napoleon and Hitler knew about this Will and referred to it at the time of their attacks on Russia.

Sincerely,



Joseph M. Dodge

The Honorable Allen W. Dulles
2430 E Street N. W.
Administration Building
Washington, D. C.

The Following is Taken from "A History of Persia," by Sir Percy Sykes,
Volume II, Page 244

THE WILL OF PETER THE GREAT

Preliminary Clause:- In the name of the most holy and indivisible Trinity we, Peter I., Emperor and Autocrat of all the Russias, to all our descendents to the throne and government of the Russian nation, The All-Powerful, to whom we owe our existence, makes us regard the Russian people which is constantly guided by His light, and sustained by His Divine support, as called in the future to be the dominant race in Europe. This idea strikes us from the fact that European nations have for the greater part arrived at a state of old age allied to decay, or at all events this approaches them with rapid strides. From this it results that they ought to be easily and assuredly conquered by a young and new people, when the latter shall have attained all their force and power.

I regard the approaching invasion of the Western and Oriental nations by the North as a periodic movement decreed and designed by Providence, who in such a manner regenerated the Roman people by means of an invasion of barbarians. This emigration of men from the direction of the Pole is like the reflux of the Nile, which at certain times nourishes with its mud the western land of Egypt. I have found Russia to be this river, and so I leave her. My successors will make her a great sea destined to fertilize impoverished Europe, and if my descendents know how to direct the waters, her waves will break through any opposing banks. It is just for this reason that I leave the following instructions and I recommend them to the attention and constant observation of my descendents.

I. To keep Russia in a state for continual war, to hold the soldier ever ready and never give him rest except for the purpose of recovering the finances of the country and the improvement of the army. To choose the most favourable moment for attack, to follow up peace by war, and war by peace, in the interest, aggrandizement, and growing prosperity of Russia.

II. To entice by every means possible from the cleverest people of Europe officers during war and savants during peace, in order to improve the Russians at the expense of other nations without losing her own advantages.

III. To take part on every occasion in the affairs and discussions of Europe, whatever they may be, and especially in those concerning Germany, who as our most intimate neighbour interests us more directly.

IV. To divide Poland, and keep up in that kingdom a constant disorder and continued jealousy, gain over the other Powers at the price of gold, influence the Polish assemblies and corrupt them, so as to obtain an interest in the election of kings, to name partisans and protect them as an excuse for the entry of Muscovite troops there, to remain until the day arrives for a permanent occupation. If the neighbouring Powers put forth difficulties, tranquilize them for a moment by dividing the country until we can retake as much of it as we have given up to them.

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V. To take as much as we can of Sweden, and induce her to attack us, in order that we may have the pretext for subjugating her. For this purpose we must isolate Denmark from Sweden, and favour the rivalry between these countries.

VI. To choose always German princesses for our princes in order to promote family alliances, reunite our interests, and so bring Germany over to our cause for the augmentation of our influence.

VII. To give the preference to an alliance with England for commerce, she being the Power which has the greatest need of us for her marine, while at the same time she can be most useful to us for the development of our own. To exchange our wood and products for her gold, and establish continual relations between us with regard to her merchandise, her sailors, and our own, which will be in the interest of this country for navigation and commerce.

VIII. To extend ourselves without ceasing towards the North along the Baltic, and also towards the South along the Black Sea.

IX. To approach as near as possible to Constantinople and India. Whoever governs there will be the true sovereign of the world. Consequently, excite continual wars, not only in Turkey, but in Persia. Establish dockyards on the Black Sea. Seize upon little pieces near this sea as well as on the Baltic, which is doubly necessary for the attainment of our project. And in the decadence of Persia, penetrate as far as the Persian Gulf, re-establish if it be possible the ancient commerce with the Levant, advance as far as India, which is the depot of the world. Arrived at this point, we shall have no longer need of England's gold.

X. To endeavor to maintain with care the alliance with the House of Austria, appear to support her in her policy of future domination of Germany, and foster below the surface the jealousy of the princes. Endeavor to induce her to demand the assistance of Russia by one means or another, and to exercise over the country a species of protection which may prepare for future domination.

XI. To interest the House of Austria in driving the Turk out of Europe, to neutralize her jealousies at the moment of the conquest of Constantinople, either by exciting her to war with the great Powers of Europe, or by giving her a portion of the conquest, which we will retake from her at a later period.

XII. To endeavor to reunite around us all the disunited and schismatic Greeks who are scattered over Hungary or Turkey or the middle of Poland, to be their centre, their support, to establish in advance an universal predominance by means of a kind of automatic or sacerdotal supremacy as a friend to each enemy.

XIII. Sweden being dismembered, Persia subjugated, Poland crushed, Turkey conquered, our army reunited, the Black Sea and Baltic guarded by our ships, we must then propose separately, and very secretly, first to the Court of Versailles, then to that of Vienna, to share with them the empire of the universe. If one of the two accept, which is nearly certain, by flattering her ambition and national vanity, to make use of her for crushing the other. Finally, to annihilate in her turn the one which remains, by commencing a struggle which cannot be perilous, Russia possessing already all the Eastern or Greater portion of Europe.

XIV. If (which is not impossible) each of these powers should refuse the project of Russia, we must know how to excite them to quarrel one with the other, and to act that they may enfeeble themselves through each other. Then, taking advantage of the decisive moment, Russia must advance her troops, now reunited, on Germany, at the same time send two considerable fleets, one starting from the sea of Asof and the other from Archangel with Asiatic troops; through the assistance of these armed fleets, advancing by the Mediterranean and the ocean. France will be invaded on one side, Germany on the other. These two countries conquered the rest of Europe will pass easily and without striking a blow beneath the yoke. It is thus that we can, and we ought to, subjugate Europe.¹

¹ I am indebted to Col. N. Picot for the above translation.